



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Information and Privacy

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUN 19 2001

Mr. Ryan Wood
Wood Enterprises
701 12th Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Re: Appeal No. 01-1477
RLH:ADW:FPM

Dear Mr. Wood:

You appealed from the action of the Headquarters Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your request for access to records concerning John Louis von Neumann. I note that you have limited your appeal to the FBI's excision of information from certain pages listed in your appeal letter.

After carefully considering your appeal, and as a result of discussions between FBI personnel and a member of my staff, I have decided to release 204 additional pages to you, copies of which are enclosed. I am, however, otherwise affirming the FBI's Headquarters Office's action on your request.

Mr. von Neumann is the subject of three Headquarters Office main files entitled Background Investigation, Domestic Security Investigation, and Department of Energy-Applicant.

The FBI properly withheld from you certain information that is protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to:

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), which concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties (including, in this instance, the names of FBI agents); and

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(D), which concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which could reasonably be expected to disclose the identities of confidential sources and information furnished by such sources.

I have also determined that this information is not appropriate for discretionary release.

With regard to the portion of your appeal letter in which you request a listing of all individuals who have requested records concerning Mr. von Neumann, I note that you did not seek this information in your initial request letter to the FBI Headquarters Office. Because you may not broaden the scope of your initial request on appeal, I suggest that you submit a new request to the FBI Headquarters Office for the additional information you seek.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, you may seek judicial review in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Huff", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard L. Huff
Co-Director

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 30, 1954

Personal and Confidential

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Will you please have the investigation of John ^{Vaughn} Neumann, which was conducted by your office in 1947 and in 1953, brought up to date. 11-14

Mr. Neumann, who lives in Princeton, New Jersey, is a candidate for the Atomic Energy Commission.

When the report is ready, it may be forwarded directly to The Honorable Sherman Adams, with a notation in the cover letter that it was requested by the writer.

Sincerely,

Stephen Benedict
Stephen Benedict

Assistant Staff Secretary

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

EXP. PROC.

OCT 1 1954

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

as per call
to Benedict
10/4/54

Ordered
10/1/54
c/c

10/1/54
11-14

WPK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

REPORT MADE AT ALBUQUERQUE	DATE WHEN MADE 10/8/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/8/54	REPORT MADE BY b7C
TITLE JOHN VON NEUMANN, aka, John R. Von Neumann			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY WHITE HOUSE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Dr. JOHN VON NEUMANN retained as consultant to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, November 2, 1943 to present. Highly recommended by associates at Los Alamos as to professional capability and as to character, loyalty, associates and trustworthiness. No credit or criminal record at Los Alamos or Santa Fe, N. M.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau teletype to Albuquerque dated October 4, 1954.

DETAILS: The title of this case has been modified to include the name of JOHN R. VON NEUMANN as reflected by personnel records of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Investigation at Los Alamos, New Mexico, was conducted by SA and at Santa Fe, New Mexico by SA

b7C

EMPLOYMENT

At Los Alamos, New Mexico

Records of the Personnel Division, University of California at Los Alamos, reflect that Doctor JOHN VON NEUMANN,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: DAB	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 77-64804-6 NOT RECORDED OCT 11 1954 B I	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ② - Bureau (AMSD) 1 - Albuquerque (77-485)			

has been retained under contract as a consultant to the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory from November 2, 1943, to the present. His current contract is effective until June 30, 1955. The instant records reflect that Doctor VON NEUMANN has actually worked as a consultant at Los Alamos on only three occasions within the past year, ranging from three days to two weeks in length.

Dr. NORRIS E. BRADBURY, Director, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, advised that he has known Doctor JOHN VON NEUMANN since 1944. He stated that within such period he has had both professional and social contacts with VON NEUMANN whenever he has been at Los Alamos. He has also served on a number of different scientific committees with Doctor VON NEUMANN. Doctor BRADBURY stated that he has "the very highest regard" for the professional capability of Doctor VON NEUMANN and also the highest regard for his integrity, character, loyalty and trustworthiness. He continued that he has the highest degree of confidence in VON NEUMANN and that he would recommend him without qualification for any position of trust with the United States Government.

Dr. RALPH CARLISLE SMITH, Associate Director for Classification and Security, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, advised that he has known Doctor JOHN VON NEUMANN since 1944. During such period he has had intermittent contact with VON NEUMANN at Los Alamos and other places both on a professional and a social basis. Doctor SMITH stated that he has the highest respect for VON NEUMANN and that he considers the attitude of VON NEUMANN toward "Security Matters" to be very commendable. He stated that he feels certain that VON NEUMANN is "anti-Communitic" in his political belief, but that he does not exhibit any appreciable interest, or become involved, in political matters. Doctor SMITH recommended VON NEUMANN highly as to character, reputation, loyalty, and professional capability. He stated that when Doctor VON NEUMANN is at Los Alamos he associates only with individuals who hold very responsible positions in connection with the laboratory and with "top" people in the theoretical field.

Doctor SMITH advised that he is also quite well acquainted with Mrs. KLARA VON NEUMANN and considers her to be

AQ 77-485

of excellent character and reputation and completely loyal to the United States and the Democratic form of government. He added that when Doctor VON NEUMANN and his wife are in Los Alamos they always reside in temporary quarters at The Lodge.

NEIGHBORHOOD

At Los Alamos, New Mexico

Mr. ROBERT E. CARAWAY, Manager, The Lodge, advised that Dr. VON NEUMANN and his wife always stay at The Lodge when at Los Alamos. He stated he believes the VON NEUMANNs to be of good character and reputation, but that he does not know them well enough to comment on their loyalty to this country. He added, however, that nothing unfavorable concerning them has ever come to his attention.

CREDIT RECORD

At Santa Fe, New Mexico

Mr. BERT BROWN, Manager, Merchants' Credit Service, which covers Los Alamos, New Mexico, advised that records of that agency do not contain any information relative to Doctor JOHN VON NEUMANN or his wife, Mrs. KLARA VON NEUMANN.

CRIMINAL RECORD

At Santa Fe, New Mexico

The records of the New Mexico State Police were checked with negative results and they do not contain any information relative to Doctor VON NEUMANN or his wife.

At Los Alamos, New Mexico

Records of the Los Alamos Police Department were checked with negative results and they do not reflect any information relative to Doctor JOHN VON NEUMANN or his wife, KLARA DAN VON NEUMANN.

MISCELLANEOUS

At Los Alamos, New Mexico

The files of the AEC Security Branch at Los Alamos

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT b7c

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *DA* SAC, ALBUQUERQUE (77-485)

DATE: 10/8/54

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN, aka
JOHN R. VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Re Bureau teletype to Albuquerque dated 10/4/54.

b7c There is transmitted herewith two copies of report of SA [REDACTED] dated 10/8/54, at Albuquerque, titled as captioned above.

The attention of the Bureau is respectfully directed to report of SA [REDACTED] dated 12/8/53, at Albuquerque, entitled JOHN VON NEUMANN; AEA-E (Bureau File 116-1914), which reflects that the below identified individuals have been named as particular social associates of VON NEUMANN at Los Alamos, New Mexico, over a period of years.

1. JORDAN CARSON MARK - 3 - 12818 (Bufile 116-10719)
2. STANISLAW MARCIN ULAM - SF - 21234 (Bufile 116-15217)
3. FRANCOISE ULAM - 3 - 81293 - SF (Bufile 116-61676)
4. GEORGE FOSTER EVANS - 3 - 12799 (Bufile 116-10355)
5. CERDA LOUISE EVANS - 3 - 27383 (Bufile 116-20656)

The Bureau is in possession of some previously reported derogatory information relative to all of these individuals, full details of which are not available to the Albuquerque office at this time.

- C -

RIM:GK

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

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77-64804-6
NOT RECORDED
8 OCT 11 1954

ATTN: SPECIAL INQUIRY
SECTION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

b7c

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

REPORT MADE AT BALTIMORE	DATE WHEN MADE 10/8/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/4,6,7,8/54	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE JOHN VON NEUMANN			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY b7c
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Applicant currently employed as consultant for Ballistics Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Associates at Aberdeen Proving Ground state no question of applicant's character, loyalty, reputation or associates. Credit and criminal negative. - RUC - b7c REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] Baltimore, Maryland dated April 8, 1947; Report of SA [REDACTED] Baltimore, Maryland dated September 17, 1953; Bureau teletype dated October 4, 1954; Bureau teletype dated October 7, 1954. DETAILS: <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> <u>AT ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND</u> Mrs. JIMALEE HUBELI, Records Clerk, Civilian Personnel Division, advised that the appointee's appointment as a consultant was extended on July 1, 1954.			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 77-64804-1 NOT RECORDED OCT 11 1954 NPK		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 Bureau 1 Baltimore (116-213)			

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Ba. (116-213)

for a term not to exceed thirty days in fiscal year 1955 and not to extend beyond June 30, 1955.

Dr. R. H. KENT, Associate Director, Ballistics Research Laboratories; Dr. LEWIS DEL SASSO, Laboratory Chief; and Dr. THEODORE STERN, Scientific Advisor to the Director, Ballistics Research Laboratories, advised that VON NEUMANN continues in his capacity as a consultant for the laboratories and that they continue to consider him a person of high moral character, reputable associates, excellent reputation and undoubtedly loyal to this country.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

Chief J. BEN RAY, Aberdeen, Maryland Police Department and Miss SHIRLEY WILDASON, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Belair, Maryland, advised that there are no records in their respective offices for the appointee or his wife. Aberdeen, Maryland is in Harford County. There is no established credit bureau in Harford County.

BARBARA SELLMAN, File Clerk, The Credit Bureau of Baltimore, Inc.; Mrs. ELEANORE BUSCH, Clerk, Traffic Records Division, Maryland State Department of Motor Vehicles, Baltimore, Maryland; and MICHAEL KRAITZ, Identification Clerk, Maryland State Police Headquarters, Pikesville, Maryland, advised SES [REDACTED] respectively, that they were unable to locate any records for the appointee or his wife. b7c

MISCELLANEOUS

HARRY MENCKE, Post Intelligence Officer, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, advised that no information reflecting adversely on the character, reputation, loyalty or associates of the appointee has been brought to the attention of the Post Intelligence Officer.

- RUC -

NY 77-19335

article states that in connection with OPPENHEIMER'S failure to report HAAKON CHEVALIER as the person who tried to secure from him atomic information for the Russians in 1943, VON NEUMANN testified, "You have to view the performance and the character of a man as a whole. This episode would make me think that in 1942 and 1943, he was not emotionally and intellectually prepared to handle this kind of a job; that he subsequently learned how to handle it, and handled it very well, I know."

Credit

b7c Miss EVELYN SBARRA, Clerk, Credit Bureau of Greater New York, advised SE [REDACTED] that her records contained no information concerning appointee, his mother, MARGARET VON NEUMANN, brother, MICHAEL VON NEUMANN, or daughter, MARIANA VON NEUMAN.

Criminal

SA [REDACTED] caused the records of the New York City Police Department to be checked by Acting Deputy Inspector JOSEPH CASHMAN, Bureau of Criminal Identification; Acting Captain ARTHUR MORGAN, Bureau of Information; Acting Captain JOHN BLYTHE, Old Record Room (all of above New York City Police Department); and Mr. JOSEPH WILSON, Fingerprint Bureau, Magistrate's Court, City of New York. No record was located for appointee or his above-named relatives.

During an applicant type investigation of appointee's former wife, MARIETTE K. KUPER, in 1954, it was indicated that appointee's daughter, MARIANA VON NEUMANN, resided with Mrs. KUPER on West Meadow Road, Setauket, New York.

Mrs. ALICE SHAW, Brookhaven Town Police Department, Patchogue, New York, which Police Department covers Setauket, New York, advised SA [REDACTED] that she had no arrest record for MARIANA VON NEUMANN.

77-64804-8

- RUC -

- 2 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE 10/8/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/6,7,8/54	REPORT MADE BY
TITLE JOHN VON NEUMANN			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY b7c
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Employment at Radiation Laboratory, University of California, set forth. Dr. EDWARD TELLER states considerable contact since last interview and advised nothing additional to add. Recommended as to character, loyalty, ability, associates and patriotism. Dr. LOUIS ALVAREZ and Dr. DONALD COOKSKY, Radiation Laboratory, advise VON NEUMANN of excellent reputation as a scientist. No credit or criminal record maintained. -RUC- REFERENCE: Bureau teletype to San Francisco dated 10/4/54. DETAILS: <u>AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA:</u> Mrs. MILDRED WILLIAMS, Personnel Office, Radiation Laboratory, advised that JOHN VON NEUMANN's contract as a consultant was renewed July 1, 1954, to run until June 30, 1955. She stated his address was indicated as at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, New Jersey. Mr. LORIN HEWITT, Assistant Security Officer, Radiation Laboratory, advised VON NEUMANN visited the Radiation Laboratory at Livermore, subsequent to his previous investigation, on January 15, 1954, and that on July 15, 1954, he was issued an exchange pass which enabled him to visit the laboratory at will and no record of these visits are maintained. He stated it is, therefore, unknown as to the frequency of VON NEUMANN's visits after July 15, 1954.			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>W. H. W. J.</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau (AM) 1 - San Francisco (77-5403)		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 77-64804-9 NOT RECORDED 11 OCT 11 1954	

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Dr. EDWARD TELLER, Physicist, advised that he has had considerable recent contact with VON NEUMANN and that he had nothing additional to add to the previous statement furnished in 1953. TELLER recommended VON NEUMANN highly as to his character, loyalty, patriotism, associates and ability as a scientist.

Dr. LUIS ALVAREZ, Physicist, Radiation Laboratory, stated he had some professional contact with VON NEUMANN over a considerable period of time, but that he has not had much social contact with him. ALVAREZ advised he considers VON NEUMANN one of the most brilliant scientists in the world, and that he has an excellent reputation in the profession. ALVAREZ continued that he has had no reason to question VON NEUMANN's character, loyalty to the United States, or his patriotism in any way, and that lack of information prevents him from commenting farther.

Dr. DONALD COOKSEY, Assistant Director, Radiation Laboratory, advised that he knows VON NEUMANN by reputation only. He stated that VON NEUMANN is well regarded in the profession and has the reputation of being one of the most brilliant minds in the scientific field of mathematical physicists. COOKSEY continued that he has never received any derogatory information concerning VON NEUMANN's loyalty, character or associates.

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

The files of the Berkeley Police Department and the Credit Bureau of the Greater East Bay did not contain any record or unfavorable information concerning VON NEUMANN or his wife, CLARA.

AT LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

The files of the Livermore Police Department, the Credit Bureau of Livermore Valley, and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office at Pleasanton, which covers the Livermore area, contained no record of VON NEUMANN or his wife, CLARA.

- R U C -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BUREAU**

REPORT MADE AT KNOXVILLE	DATE WHEN MADE 10/8/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/6/54	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7C llm
TITLE JOHN VON NUDEMAN			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: JOHN VON NUDEMAN presently a consultant to the K-25 Plant and to ORNL, both at Oak Ridge, Tenn., to 12/31/54. VON NUDEMAN has spent no time in Oak Ridge since December, 1951. - R U C - REFERENCE: Bureau teletype to Knoxville dated 10/4/54. DETAILS: AT OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE: ELVIN T. HENSON, Contract Coordinator, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company, advised that JOHN VON NUDEMAN, consultant contract number 186, which commenced on 1/1/49, was extended in the year 1954 to run until 12/31/54. Mr. HENSON pointed out that, according to his record, VON NUDEMAN has not been in Oak Ridge since December, 1951. - R U C -			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE 265	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 1 - Knoxville (77-940)		77-64804-10 NOT RECORDED 20 OCT 11 1954 WPK b7C	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 11 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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WA 9 FROM NEWARK

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7-56 P

DIRECTOR FBI

...URGENT...

JOHN VON NEUMANN, SPI. REBUTEL DATED OCTOBER FOUR, FIFTYFOUR. VON NEUMANN PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AT INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, PRINCETON, N.J. THE FOLLOWING ASSOCIATES OF VON NEUMANN REGARD HIM AS A LOYAL AMERICAN AND RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF TRUST., HERMAN H. GOLDSTEIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ELECTRONIC COMPUTER PROJECT, INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, PRINCETON, N.J., JOHN A. WHEELER, PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, N.J., DR. A.V. TUCKER, CHAIRMAN OF THE MATHEMATICS DEPT., PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, N.J., AND DR. EUGENE P. WIGNER, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, N.J. THESE ASSOCIATES ADVISED THAT DUE TO THE FACT THAT VON NEUMANN AND DR. J. ROBERT OPPENHIEMER, WERE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY, PRINCETON, N.J., THAT THERE WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE TWO ON AN INTELLECTUAL BASIS. NEIGHBORS OF VON NEUMANN ADVISE HE AND HIS FAMILY HAVE EXCELLENT REPUTATIONS AND ARE REGARDED AS LOYAL AMERICANS OF GOOD CHARACTER AND ASSOCIATIONS. RECORDS OF THE TRENTON CREDIT ASSOCIATION, TRENTON, N.J., REFLECT A SATISFACTORY CREDIT RECORD FOR VON NEUMANN, WHICH CONTAINS NO UNFAVORABLE INFORMATION. THE RECORDS OF THE PRINCETON, N.J. PD REFLECT NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THAT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. REPORT FOLLOWS.

END

W. E. HOSTETTER

ACK PLS

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OCTOBER 12, 1954

SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD (BCS)

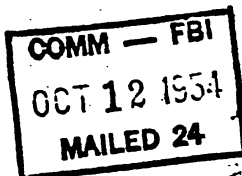
JOHN VON NEUMANN, SPI, THE WHITE HOUSE. REBUTEL 10-4-54.
BUFILES REFLECT STATE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED TELEGRAM 7-14-50

FROM BERLIN REVEALING THAT VON NEUMANN, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS
AT PRINCETON AND RICHARD V. MISES, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS AT
HARVARD, WERE ELECTED ASSOCIATE MEMBERS COMMUNIST DOMINATED GERMAN
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE IN BERLIN SOVIET SECTOR ON 6-29-50. TELEGRAM
REQUESTED STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACT VON NEUMANN AND MISES TO
DETERMINE WHETHER WILLING TO ISSUE STATEMENTS DECLINING MEMBERSHIP.
CHECK RECORDS STATE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH STATEMENTS
OBTAINED. EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION.

HOOVER

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WPK:cab



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Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BUREAU

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 10/13/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/7,8/54	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE JOHN VON NEUMANN			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY WHITE HOUSE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

VON NEUMANN presently employed at Institute For Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, where he is a close associate of Dr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER, Director, as a fellow scientist. Associates regard VON NEUMANN as a loyal American and recommend for position of trust. Neighborhood favorable. No additional information at the Princeton Police Department. VON NEUMANN's record at Trenton Credit Association satisfactory.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Bureau Teletype to Newark, 10/4/54

DETAILS:

EMPLOYMENT

Institution For Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

HERMAN H. GOLDSTINE, Assistant Director of the Electronic Computer Project, Institute For Advanced Study, advised he first became well acquainted with VON NEUMANN at the Ballistics Laboratory at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds during the period of 1942 through 1946. He advised he (GOLDSTINE) was stationed

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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there and VON NEUMANN was a consultant at the laboratory. He stated he has been closely associated with VON NEUMANN at the Institute since 1946 as both he and VON NEUMANN are in the field of mathematics. He stated that his association from 1946 to the present with VON NEUMANN has been on a social as well as scholastic basis. He advised he has had numerous opportunities to discuss various topics, political and otherwise, with VON NEUMANN and is of the opinion that VON NEUMANN is a one hundred percent loyal American. He regards VON NEUMANN as one of the few really great mathematicians alive today and that there was absolutely no question in his mind as to the character, loyalty, or associations of VON NEUMANN. He stated VON NEUMANN is the type of individual who would place the good of the United States above everything else and that he would not hesitate in any way in recommending VON NEUMANN for a position of trust.

Dr. GOLDSTINE advised VON NEUMANN's association with Dr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER was based on the fact they are fellow scientists attached to the Institute For Advanced Study where they had close daily contact.

JOHN A. WHEELER, Professor of Physics, Princeton University, advised he has had a close association with VON NEUMANN since approximately 1945, and that he knows him on a social basis as well as scholastically. He stated he regards VON NEUMANN as one of the great men in the country and stated it would be difficult to find anyone who could compare in character and loyalty. He advised he is also acquainted with VON NEUMANN's wife and regards her as a loyal American. He stated he had no doubts and has never heard of anything which would cause him to doubt the loyalty, character or associates of VON NEUMANN and that he would not hesitate in recommending VON NEUMANN for any position of trust.

Dr. WHEELER stated that as the Institute For Advanced Study, of which VON NEUMANN is a member, is a small group of eminent professors and Dr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER is the Director of this group, there is a close association between VON NEUMANN AND OPPENHEIMER.

Dr. A. W. TUCKER, Chairman of the Mathematics Department, Princeton University, advised he has known VON NEUMANN ever since he (TUCKER) was a graduate student at Princeton University. In 1931 VON NEUMANN and Dr. EUGENE P. WIGNER were appointed to the Jones Professorship in mathematics and physics which was a joint professorship between the University of Berlin and Princeton University. During the course of this professorship VON NEUMANN alternated between the University of Berlin and Princeton University on a half year basis. This lasted until 1933 when HITLER took over Germany, when both VON NEUMANN and Wigner came back to Princeton. He stated VON NEUMANN has been at Princeton University ever since that time. He advised VON NEUMANN was appointed to a professorship in the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study in 1933 or 1934 and is still there in that capacity. Dr. TUCKER advised he had charge of a Naval Research Project in connection with the theory of games of which VON NEUMANN is the foremost authority in the country. As a result of which he had frequent occasions for discussions with VON NEUMANN. He regards VON NEUMANN as the best mathematical brain in the world and as a friend and colleague, he has always found him to be an entirely reliable and trustworthy person. He stated that there is no question in his mind regarding VON NEUMANN's character, loyalty or associations, and he stated he would recommend him for a position of trust.

Dr. TUCKER advised VON NEUMANN has been associated with Dr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER for a number of years as they are fellow scientists, members of the Institute for Advanced Study, and also as OPPENHEIMER had been director of the Los Alamos Laboratory and VON NEUMANN was a consultant to this project.

Dr. EUGENE P. WIGNER, Professor of Mathematics and Physics, Princeton University, advised he has known VON NEUMANN since VON NEUMANN was ten or eleven years old. They attended the same schools in Hungary and were also closely associated in Germany before coming to the United States. He advised that although he is a physicist and VON NEUMANN is a mathematician, they have still had a close association, since they came to Princeton. He stated

NK 116-119

VON NEUMANN is thoroughly loyal to the United States and is the type of person who would be an excellent security risk in any position of trust. He stated that during the long period he has known VON NEUMANN, he has never had any reason or indication whatever to doubt his character, loyalty or associations in any way.

Dr. WIGNER stated that due to the fact VON NEUMANN is a member of the Institute For Advanced Study and Dr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER is the Director there is a close association between the two on an intellectual basis.

Dr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER is the Director of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J., and during World War II he was the Director of the Los Alamos Laboratory. In December 1953 his security clearance was suspended by the Atomic Energy Commission and following a hearing by the AEC in 1954 this suspension was upheld. This case received nation-wide publicity.

NEIGHBORHOOD

The following individuals were interviewed and furnished substantially the same information:

Mrs. ANNA M. DIELEHNN
34 Wescott Road

Mr. and Mrs. WALTER FULLAM,
44 Wescott Road

Miss ELIZABETH HOFF

They stated their association with VON NEUMANN was limited to occasional parties in the neighborhood and that they had no close association with him. They advised the VON NEUMANNs were very quiet people in the neighborhood who stayed by themselves most of the time. They had an excellent reputation in the neighborhood and were regarded as loyal Americans of good character and associations.

NK 116-119

CREDIT AND IDENTIFICATION

The records of the Trenton Credit Association, 351 Atlantic Avenue, Trenton, N. J., reflected VON NEUMANN had a satisfactory credit reputation and contained nothing unfavorable.

JOHN H. SMITH, Acting Chief of Police, Princeton, New Jersey, advised his records reflected no additional information other than that previously reported.

- RUC -

CREDIT AND CRIMINAL

The files of the Credit Bureau were checked and no record concerning the applicant was found therein.

No record of the applicant was found in the files of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., on the date checked; at all times an indefinite number of unidentified records being out of file and unavailable for review.

The files of the United States Park Police were checked and no record of the applicant was found therein.

MISCELLANEOUS

It was determined from a check of the files of the House Committee on Un-American Activities that no record of the applicant was found therein.

The files of the Civil Service Commission, Investigations Division, were checked and no additional pertinent information concerning the applicant was found therein.

The files of the Office of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force, were checked and no record of the applicant was found therein.

The Personnel Security Board of the United States Atomic Energy Commission conducted hearings in the matter of J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER in Washington, D. C., during the period April 12, 1954 through May 6, 1954. A transcript of these hearings has been published by the United States Government Printing Office at Washington, D. C. Page 631 of the said transcript reflects that on Tuesday, April 27, 1954, hearings in the above matter were continued and the following members of the Personnel Security Board were in attendance:

Dr. GORDON GRAY, Chairman
Dr. WARD T. EVANS, Member
Mr. THOMAS A. MORGAN, Member

Also present were ROGER ROBB and C. A. ROLANDER, JR., Counsel for the Board; Mr. J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER and his counsel.

The applicant testified before this Board on the above date and the pertinent portions of his testimony beginning on page 643 through 656 are set out hereafter.

WFO 116-875

Mr. GRAY. Dr. VON NEUMANN, do you wish to testify under oath?

Dr. VON NEUMANN. Yes.

Mr. GRAY. You are not required to do so. The other witnesses have.

Dr. VON NEUMANN. I am quite prepared.

Mr. GRAY. Would you be good enough to stand and raise your right hand, and give me your full name?

Dr. VON NEUMANN. JOHN VON NEUMANN.

Mr. GRAY. JOHN VON NEUMANN, do you swear that the testimony you are about to give the board shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Dr. VON NEUMANN. I do.

Whereupon JOHN VON NEUMANN was called as a witness, and having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

Mr. GRAY. Will you be seated, please.

I am required to remind you of the existence of the so-called perjury statutes. I shall be glad to review them with you if necessary.

The Witness. I think I am aware of them.

Mr. GRAY. May I ask if in the course of your testimony it becomes necessary for you to refer to or disclose restricted data, you notify me in advance, so we can take appropriate and necessary steps in the interest of security.

Finally, Doctor, I would say to you, as I say to each of the witnesses on behalf of the board, that we consider these proceedings a confidential matter between the Atomic Energy Commission and its officials on the one hand, and Dr. OPPENHEIMER, his representatives and witnesses on the other hand. The Commission is making no releases with respect to these proceedings, and we express the hope that the witnesses will take the same view.

The Witness. Yes, sir.

Direct Examination

By Mr. SILVERMAN:

Q. Dr. VON NEUMANN, what is your present nongovernmental position?

A. I am professor of mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

WFO 116-875

Q. How long have you been that?

A. Since 1933.

Q. That was before Dr. OPPENHEIMER came there?

A. Yes.

Q. I understand you were for 2 years president of the American Mathematical Society.

A. That is correct.

Q. You have been a member of the National Academy of Science, I understand, since 1937?

A. Yes, since 1937.

Q. Will you state your present governmental position?

A. I am a member of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission. I have been that since 1952. I have been a consultant to the Los Alamos Laboratory since 1943. Outside the Commission, I am a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Air Forces. I have also a few other governmental advisory positions.

Q. Would you tell us the story of when you first knew Dr. OPPENHEIMER and what contacts you have had with him since?

A. I think that Dr. OPPENHEIMER and I first met in Germany in 1926. It was in Goettingen, to be precise. We were both I think immediately after our respective Ph.D.'s and we were both there. There was a great center of theoretical physics in Goettingen, and we were both there at the time.

Then between 1926 and 1940, we may or may not have met. I think we did not, although I knew about Dr. OPPENHEIMER and I knew about his work.

In 1940 we met in Los Angeles, and we had several conversations. We also met at that time in Seattle. We met again in early 1943, at which time Dr. OPPENHEIMER told me that he wanted me to join a project which he could not describe at that moment.

Then I went to England and came back in the fall, and then I was asked officially to go to Los Alamos. After that, our contacts have been practically continuous, with a slight interruption between 1945 and 1947, when we both had left Los Alamos and Dr. OPPENHEIMER had not yet come to Princeton.

WFO 116-875

Q. Since 1947 you have both been?

A. I would say our association has been practically continuous since 1943.

Q. You referred to meeting Dr. OPPENHEIMER in 1940 in Los Angeles, and did you say at Seattle, also?

A. Yes, it was outside of Seattle.

Q. Was that after the fall of France, or about the time of the fall of France?

A. This was in May or June of 1940. It was in the period during which France was collapsing, and the conversation I had mentioned we then had and which I assume is relevant in this context, it was one we had about the political situation then. What I do recall very clearly is that Dr. OPPENHEIMER was for intervention on the side of the western allies. This was of course a very acute question at the moment, and I asked practically everybody I met how he felt so this I remember quite clearly.

Q. There has been, I guess, a fair amount of testimony that would be an understatement--about the GAC report of October 1949, with respect to the hydrogen bomb and the thermomuclear program. Dr. VON NEUMANN, did you agree with the GAC report and recommendations?

A. No. I was in favor of a very accelerated program. The GAC at that point recommended that the acceleration should not occur.

Q. Very accelerated hydrogen bomb or thermomuclear program?

A. Yes, it is all the same thing.

Q. Would it be fair to say one might say in the opposite camp on the question?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. Did you consider that the recommendations of the GAC and in particular Dr. OPPENHEIMER were made in good faith?

A. Yes, I had no doubt about that.

Q. Do you have any doubt now?

A. No.

Q. You know, of course, that Dr. OPPENHEIMER was not the only person who was opposed to the program?

A. No, the whole group of scientists and military who were keenly in this matter--of course, there had been a lot of discussion and practically everyone of us knew very soon fairly precisely where everybody stood. So we know each other's opinions, and very many of us had discussed the matter with each other. Dr. OPPENHEIMER and I had discussed it with each other, and so we knew each other's views very precisely.

My impression of this matter was, like everybody else, I would have been happy if everybody had agreed with me. However, it was evidently a matter of great importance. It was evidently a matter which would have consequences for the rest of our lives and beyond. So there was a very animated controversy about it. It lasted for months.

That it lasted for months was not particularly surprising to my mind. I think it was perfectly normal that there should be a controversy about it. It was perfectly normal that emotions should run rather high.

Q. Have you yourself participated in the program of the development of thermonuclear weapons and the hydrogen bomb?

A. Yes.

Q. After the President's decision in January of 1950, is it your impression that the GAC and particularly Dr. OPPENHEIMER was holding back in the effort to develop the bomb?

A. My impression was that all the people I knew, and this includes Dr. OPPENHEIMER, first of all took this decision with very good grace and cooperated. The specific things I know were various actions which were necessary in 1951. At that time there were a number of technical decisions that had to be made about the technical program. I know in considerable detail what Dr. OPPENHEIMER did then, and it was certainly very constructive.

.

Q. Did Dr. OPPENHEIMER attempt to dissuade you from working on the hydrogen-bomb program?

A. No. We had a discussion. Of course, he attempted to persuade me to accept his views. I equally attempted to persuade him to accept my views, and this was one by two people who met during this period. I would say apart from the absolutely normal discussion on a question on which you happen to disagree, there was absolutely nothing else. The idea that this might be pressure I must say did not occur to me ever.

WFO 116-875

Q. Do you now think that it was pressure?

A. No. I think it was the perfectly normal desire to convince somebody else.

Q. During what period was this discussion?

A. This was in 1949, December 1949. I remember quite clearly two discussions, one which was about half an hour at which time I saw the GAC opinion and we discussed it.

Q. You had a Q clearance at that time?

A. Yes. We discussed the same subject again about a week later, again for about 20 minutes or half an hour, I don't know. We probably also talked about the subject on other occasions, but I don't recall.

Q. Wasn't the discussion about whether you personally should work on the hydrogen-bomb program?

A. Absolutely not. The only question was whether it was or was not wise to undertake that program.

Q. You have known Dr. OPPENHEIMER, I think you said, substantially continuously since 1943 to the present date?

A. Yes.

Q. With the exception of the period from 1945, the end of the Los Alamos days, until 1947, when Dr. OPPENHEIMER came to the institute as director.

A. That is correct.

Q. During that period you have really lived in the same small town?

A. Yes.

Q. And been friends and known each other quite well during all that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Both professionally and socially?

A. Yes, that is correct.

WFO 116-875

Q. Do you have an opinion about Dr. OPPENHEIMER's loyalty to the United States, his integrity?

A. I have no doubts about it whatever.

Q. Your opinion I take it is quite clear and firm?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Do you have an opinion as to Dr. OPPENHEIMER's discretion in the handling of classified materials and classified information?

A. Absolutely. I have personally every confidence. Furthermore I am not aware that anybody has questioned that.

Q. There seems to be some question among my associates whether I asked this. Do you have an opinion about Dr. OPPENHEIMER's loyalty?

A. Yes.

Q. What is that?

A. I would say he is loyal.

Q. Do you have any doubt on that subject at all?

A. No.

Mr. SILVERMAN. I have no further questions.

Cross-Examination

By Mr. ROBB:

Q. Dr. VON NEUMANN, you stated that Dr. OPPENHEIMER attempted to persuade you to accept his views, and you attempted to persuade him to accept your views in December 1949?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you tell us briefly what his views were as you understood them?

A. Well, that it would be a mistake to undertake an acceleration of the hydrogen bomb, the thermonuclear program for the following reasons: Because it would disorganize the program of the AEC because instead of developing

WFO 116-875

fission weapons further, which one knew how to do and where one could predict good results fairly reliably, one getting back on a crash program which would supersede and damage everything else, and the results of the crash program would be dubious. That furthermore, from the military point of view, making bigger explosions was not necessarily an advantage in proportion to the size of the explosion. Furthermore, that we practically had the lead in whatever we did, and the Russians would follow, and that we were probably more vulnerable than they were for a variety of reasons, one of which is that we can probably saturate them right now— I meant right then—whereas they could not at that moment. Therefore, a large increment on both sides would merely mean that both sides can saturate the other. Also, that since there was now this possibility of a large increment in destructive power, this was now for the second time, and possibly for the last time an opportunity to try to negotiate control and disarmament.

I think this was by and large the argument. There are a few other angles which are classified which I think are not very decisive.

Q. Doctor, was there anything in his argument about the immorality of developing the thermonuclear?

A. I took it for granted that it was his view. It did not appear very much in our arguments, but we knew each other quite well. My view on that is quite hard boiled, and that was known.

Q. What was Dr. OPPENHEIMER's view, soft boiled?

A. I assume, but look, now, I am going by hearsay. I have not discussed it with him.

Q. I understand.

A. I assume that one ought to consider it very carefully whether one develops anything of this order of destruction just per se.

Q. Yes, sir. Doctor, in response to a question from Mr. SILVERMAN, you said you had no question about Dr. OPPENHEIMER's integrity, did you not?

A. Yes.

Q. By that you meant his honesty, did you not?

A. Yes.

Q. Doctor, do you recall having heard anything about an incident which occurred between Dr. OPPENHEIMER and a man named CHEVALIER?

WFO 116-875

A. Yes, but that was lately. I do not know for absolutely sure when I first heard it. I saw the letter of charges and there it occurs. When I read it, I had the vague impression that I had heard this before, but I think that this was in the last few years.

Q. You saw the letter of General Nichols and Dr. OPPENHEIMER's response?

A. Yes. I am not absolutely certain whether I saw the complete original or whether I saw somebody's excerpts of relevant parts.

Q. What is your present understanding about that incident that I referred to—the CHEVALIER incident? What do you have in mind about what happened?

A. What I understand happened was—and please correct me if my recollection is inexact—my impression is that CHEVALIER was a man who had been Dr. OPPENHEIMER's friend in earlier years, who in 1942, I think, or early 1943, when Dr. OPPENHEIMER was already associated with the atomic energy project which was not yet the Manhattan district, made an approach and suggested to him that somebody else, whose name I have forgotten, was working for Russia and would be able to transmit scientific and technical information to Russia.

I understood that Dr. OPPENHEIMER essentially told him to go to hell, but did not report this incident immediately, and that when he later reported it, he did not report it completely for some time, until, I think, ordered by General GROVES to do so.

.....

By Mr. ROBB:

Dr. VON NEUMANN, my question is, assuming that Dr. OPPENHEIMER testified before this board as I have indicated to you, would that shake your confidence in his honesty?

A. May I ask you again, if I understood correctly—

Q. Yes.

A. If I understood correctly, the hypothetical representation to the board would have been something like this: That a false statement was made because Dr. OPPENHEIMER wanted to avoid naming Mr. CHEVALIER and himself. I understood your description first as saying that he said that he is supposed to have said that he made these statements to security officers because he did not want to mention CHEVALIER's name and did not want to mention his own name. Is this correct?

Mr. ROBB. I wonder if we might have the question read back to the witness?

WFO 116-875

The Witness. Please read it back.

(Question read by the reporter.)

The Witness. In other words, the hypothetical testimony is that his conduct was first of all due to a desire to make things easier for CHEVALIER and possibly for himself, but on the other hand, it actually made it much worse. Is this the idea?

Mr. ROBB. I hesitate to instruct the witness, Mr. Chairman, beyond the statement of the hypothesis.

Mr. GARRISON. I think that is right.

Mr. SILVERMAN. You asked the witness a hypothetical question. If the witness is not entirely clear as to the hypothetical question, if the witness' understanding of it is at all different from that of the hearers, it make his answer not very competent, and therefore it is important to have it clear.

By Mr. ROBB:

Q. I think it is clear to say that part of the assumption is that Dr. OPPENHEIMER testified that one of his explanations for this conduct was that he was reluctant to mention Dr. CHEVALIER and somewhat reluctant to mention himself.

A. But at the same time, he now realized that his statements if true would actually be much worse for CHEVALIER.

Q. I think that is a fair statement, yes, sir.

A. So this was an attempt to achieve something of which it actually achieved the opposite, is that the idea?

Q. That might be inferred, yes.

A. Look, you have to view the performance and the character of a man as a whole. This episode, if true, would make me think that the course of the year 1943 or in 1942 and 1943, he was not emotionally and intellectually prepared to handle this kind of a job; that he subsequently learned how to handle it, and by all of us, I mean all people in scientific technical occupations got suddenly in contact with a universe we had not known before. I mean this peculiar problem of security, the fact that people who looked all right might be conspirators and might be spies. They are

all things which do not enter one's normal experience in ordinary times. While we are now most of us quite prepared to discover such things in our entourage, we were not prepared to discover these things in 1943. So I must say that this had on anyone a shock effect, and any one of us may have behaved foolishly and ineffectively and untruthfully, so this condition is something ten years later, I would not consider too serious. This would affect me the same way as if I would suddenly hear about somebody that he has had some extraordinary escapade in his adolescence.

I know that neight of us were adolescents at that time, but of course we were all little children with respect to the situation which had developed, namely, that we suddenly were dealing with something with which one could blow up th world. Furthermore, we were involved in a triangular war with two of our enemies had done suddenly the nice thing of fighting each other. But after all, they were still enemies. This was a very peculiar situation. None of us had been educated or conditioned to exist in this situation, and we had to make our rationalization and our code of conduct as we went along.

For some people it took 2 months, for some 2 years, and for some 1 year. I am quite sure that all of us by now have developed the necessary code of ethics and the necessary resistance.

So if this story is true, that would just give me a piece of information on how long it took Dr. OPPENHEIMER to get adjusted to this Buck Rogers universe, but no more. I have no slightest doubt that he was not adjusted to it in 1944 or 1945.

.....

Mr. GRAY. In 1943, did you consider that people who were identified with the Communist Party had any kind of commitment to a foreign power, specifically to the Soviet Union?

The Witness. I think that if somebody was a party member and under party discipline, yes.

Mr. GRAY. My question is not what you believe now, but what you would have believed then.

The Witness. I so then believed. If somebody was under party discipline, yes.

Mr. GRAY. So you were aware in 1943 of the threats to the security of the country which might come from allowing members of the party to have access to classified information?

The Witness. It certainly was a security risk, yes. I certainly felt that as a security risk. May I say I had the feeling that this was definitely a three-way war. At that moment two of the enemies had to all advantage got into a fight of their own. It was perfectly proper to exploit this. That as far as developing the atomic bomb was concerned, what all of us had in mind in 1943 and 1944 was this. Of course, the German science and technology was enormous. We were all scared to death that the Germans might get the atomic bomb before we did. We found out later that they had somewhat neglected this area, and they didn't get as far as we thought they would get. I don't think anybody could foresee that. I think it would have been a great mistake to bank on it in 1943 and 1944. We all were actuated by a desire which was primarily one to get, it is possible, an atomic bomb before anybody else does. We certainly all had the feeling that this was paramount, and that it was quite proper to take calculated risks in this regard.

I must say that I considered Russia an enemy from the beginning to the end, and to now, and the alliance with Russia is a fortunate accident that two enemies had quarreled. However, I think it also was perfectly fair to take advantage of this, that the military commander could perfectly well decide that one should take calculated risks on this, and employing a Communist might at that moment accelerate getting an atomic weapon ahead of Germany.

Of course, it would later be a bad problem from the security point of view. But then the German danger was there, and the other thing was remote, and military information obsolesces rapidly anyhow. So I think it was not unreasonable to take such a step.

Mr. GRAY. You might have applied a different test with respect to the calculated risk in 1943 than you would apply today?

The Witness. Entirely.

.....

Mr. GRAY. Were you acquainted with FUCHS?

The Witness. Yes, I knew FUCHS quite well.

Mr. GRAY. Did you have any reason to suspect his integrity or dependability or whatever was involved in the subsequent disclosures?

The Witness. Not particularly. He was a rather queer person, but then under these conditions queer persons occur. I did not suspect him particularly. He was clearly not an ordinary person.

WFO 116-875

Mr. GRAY. What I am getting at is whether you had reason to believe he was a Communist.

The Witness. I think I did not know about him, no. I did not know about him, that he was a Communist practically until the whole affair broke.

Dr. EVANS. Practically what?

The Witness. Until it became known, until he confessed, or rather until he was shown.

Mr. GRAY. At the time you learned about it, were you surprised?

The Witness. Look, I was not surprised in this sense, that he clearly was a peculiar person. So if it turns out an ordinary run of the mill person that he is a conspirator and spy, you are shocked and surprised. He was a very peculiar person with respect to whom I didn't have much experience. Of course, I was surprised by the fact that there had been such a thing, that a spy had been so well placed.

Mr. GRAY. When you said a few moments ago that you didn't know about it until practically at the time the disclosures were made public, does that mean that there was information available to people at Los Alamos about him, about his Communist connections, before the story was known here in Washington?

The Witness. I don't think so.

Mr. GRAY. I didn't think you intended to say that.

The Witness. No.

Mr. GRAY. I want to make clear that the record did not reflect it until you intended to say it.

The Witness. No, no; absolutely not.

Mr. GRAY. You think in that case if people in charge had known that FUCHS was a member of the Communist Party or had a Communist commitment, that this is the kind of calculated risk that you felt was desirable to take in those days? Was the calculated risk worth it in the case of FUCHS?

The Witness. Clearly not. I don't write get the question. In the light of hindsight, clearly not.

May I say this was of course a highly empirical subject. FUCHS made a contribution. Of course, the damage he made outweighs the contribution by far, probably. Exactly what concentration of spies one would find among the people with Communist backgrounds nobody knew ahead of time, and quite particularly the technical people didn't know. So I would say this was a decision for security and for whatever branch of the Government was involved, which deals with counterespionage to make.

Mr. GRAY. Today you would not recommend employment on a sensitive project of someone known now to be a member of the Communist Party.

The Witness. No.

Mr. GRAY. Suppose there was recommended to you an individual for employment who some years ago had what you believed to be close Communist affiliations; what would your response be today?

The Witness. I would certainly not employ him in a sensitive job.

Mr. GRAY. A person who had had close Communist affiliations in an earlier period of his life?

The Witness. How early? I thought you said a few years ago. I mean how early. I would say if somebody had close affiliations with the Communist Party after 1945 or later, then I would certainly not employ him in a sensitive job. If he had close affiliations with the Communist Party in the late 1930's, then I would say if he was never a party member, then I would view the entire situation and I think if there is prima facie evidence of a probability that he had changed his views, I certainly would. If he was an actual member of the party, I would say that the burden of proof that he is no longer a member is on him. In other words, on his general conduct since then. I think you must consider the total personality and the total life and the probable motivation and interests of the person after 1940.

Mr. GRAY. Do you pick 1940 as a particular year?

The Witness. No. It is a vague thing. It is somewhere between 1940 and 1944, I would say.

Mr. GRAY. That close affiliations as late as 1944--

The Witness. I would begin to get worried, in fact, seriously worried. The great watershed is evidently the Second World War. There are all sorts of things happening there. For instance, the possibility for error is greater

in 1943 and 1944 when the Russians were allies, than in 1940, when they were cooperating with the enemy. So I think dating between 1940 and 1944 is very difficult. But I would say definitely that I would take a lenient view of things before 1940, and a very hard view of things after 1944.

Mr. GRAY. Suppose at Los Alamos someone had come to you—this is purely hypothetical—and said, although the British are our allies and the official policy of the United States Government is to share military information of the highest degree of secrecy with the British, this policy is being frustrated in Washington, now I have a way of getting to the British scientists information about what we are doing here in Los Alamos, and don't you think it is up to us to make sure that official policy is not frustrated, and you knew that this person was interested in the British, what would your position have been at that time, Dr. VON NEUMANN?

The Witness. For one thing, I would certainly not have given him information, but I assume that the main question is would I have reported him right away.

Mr. GRAY. Yes; let me ask that question. The British were allies, it was official policy, this man frankly said that then if the information were made available, it could be transmitted through channels which were not official channels.

The Witness. I would probably have reported him. I realize, however, that this can lead to a bad conflict. If I am convinced that the man is honest in his own benighted way, that is an unpleasant conflict situation, I would probably have reported him anyway.

Mr. GRAY. The reason I asked the question is not to get an answer from you on the basis of a hypothetical question, but to really ask next whether you would have made a distinction at that time between an approach on behalf of the Russians and an approach on behalf of the British.

The Witness. Yes. I think the probability of being at war with Russia in the next 10 years was high, and the probability of being at war with England in the next 10 years was low.

Mr. GRAY. Thank you, Dr. EVANS.

Dr. EVANS. Dr. VON NEUMANN, where were you born?

The Witness. Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. EVANS. I think you did tell us, but I want to know again, just where were you educated?

The Witness. I studied chemistry in Berlin and Zurich and graduated as an engineer of chemistry in Zurich.

WFO 116-875.

Dr. EVANS. Zurich?

The Witness. Yes; in Switzerland. After that I got a Ph.D. in mathematics in Budapest, Hungary. This was in 1926.

Dr. EVANS. When did you come to this country?

The Witness. 1930.

Dr. EVANS. Are you a citizen of the United States?

The Witness. Since 1937.

Dr. EVANS. And were you professor here at any time in any institute?

The Witness. Yes; I was professor of mathematical physics at Princeton University until 1933. At that time the Institute for Advanced Study began to operate in Princeton and I was then appointed to the Institute for Advanced Study.

Dr. EVANS. You first met Dr. OPPENHEIMER in Goettingen?

The Witness. It was either Zurich or Goettingen in 1926.

Dr. EVANS. Doctor, do you think a man can be loyal to his country and still, due to his associates, be a security risk?

The Witness. That is possible; yes.

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Dr. EVANS. If someone had approached you and told you he had a way to transport secret information to Russia, would you have been very much surprised if that man approached you?

The Witness. It depends who the man is.

Dr. EVANS. Suppose he is a friend of yours.

The Witness. Well; yes.

Dr. EVANS. Would you be surprised?

The Witness. Yes.

Dr. EVANS. Would you have reported it immediately?

WFO 116-875

The Witness. This depends on the period. I mean before I got conditioned to security, possibly not. After I got conditioned to security, certainly yes.

Dr. EVANS. You would.

The Witness. I mean after quite an experience with security matters and realizing what was involved; yes.

Dr. EVANS. I am sure you would now, Dr. VON NEUMANN.

The Witness. There is no doubt now.

Dr. EVANS. You don't know some years ago whether you would have or not?

The Witness. What I am trying to say is this, that before 1941, I didn't even know what the word "classified" meant. So God only knows how intelligently I would have behaved in situations involving this. I am quite sure that I learned it reasonably fast. But there was a period of learning during which I may have made mistakes or might have made mistakes. I think I didn't.

Dr. EVANS. Would you put loyalty to a friend above loyalty to your country at any time?

The Witness. No.

Dr. EVANS. Have you met any Communists?

The Witness. Oh; yes.

Dr. EVANS. That you knew were Communists?

The Witness. Oh; yes.

Dr. EVANS. Have you any friends that are Communists?

The Witness. At this moment; no.

Dr. EVANS. Do you always know a Communist when you meet him?

The Witness. No.

Dr. EVANS. I guess that is all.

Redirect Examination

By Mr. SILVERMAN:

Q. Perhaps particularly in view of Dr. EVANS' question about whether you ever met any Communists, I hope you will forgive me if I ask you 1 or 2 personal questions.

Was your family in Hungary at or about the time of the Soviet state there?

A. Yes.

Q. And did they leave in part because they didn't like it?

A. We left Hungary very soon after the Communists seized power. The Communist regime in Hungary lasted 130 days. This was in 1919. We left essentially as soon as it was feasible, which was about 30 or 40 days later, and we returned about 2 months after the Communists had been put down. I left Hungary later than this, to be exact 2 years later in order to go to college.

I first intended to become a chemical engineer, and if I had become a chemical engineer I might have returned to Hungary. Since I decided to become a mathematician and then the academic outlook in Hungary was not at all promising whereas in Germany at that time it was very promising indeed, I then decided to go to Germany.

Q. As you grew up, did you and your family regard Russia as a sort of natural enemy of Hungary?

A. Russia was traditionally an enemy of Hungary. There was a seed of war between Hungary and Russia in 1948 which according to the Hungarian version, which is what I know, the Hungarians put down the Russian army. After this they were not friendly. This trauma lasted after the First World War. After the First World War everybody had reason to worry about it. But I was a child of 9 when the First world War broke out. So Russia was traditionally the enemy. After the First World War and the second war, there is quite a pattern. I think you will find, generally speaking, among Hungarians an emotional fear and dislike of Russia.

.....

Q. You were asked if there were an incident that looked like an approach to espionage to you, you indicated you would report it, and now you indicated you certainly would and at other times you hoped so.

WFO 116-875

A. I would. It is possible to define a transitional period in everybody's life where he is not fully aware of the problem being present. How well anybody behaves in the period is in part a question of fortitude and in part a question of luck. There is always a relation of these things.

Q. If such an approach were made to Dr. OPPENHEIMER today, what do you think his reaction would be?

A. I have no doubt that he would report it.

Q. Immediately?

A. I think so, yes. May I say I can summarize my views on this. I think after about a year's experience with military security and implications of security and the things which make it necessary, I think every one of us and I am convinced of Dr. OPPENHEIMER, and I, and everybody who I take seriously, would act the same way, namely, follow the rules which exist.

Q. Do you think that Dr. OPPENHEIMER would place loyalty to a friend above loyalty to his country?

A. I would not think so.

Q. Dr. EVANS asked you about whether it is possible for a man to be loyal to his country, and yet be a security risk because of his associations.

A. Yes.

Q. I think you answered "Yes." Do you feel you know Dr. OPPENHEIMER's associations reasonably well?

A. I rather think so.

Q. Do you think that Dr. OPPENHEIMER is a security risk because of his present associations?

A. No, I don't think so.

Mr. SILVERMAN. That is all.

It should be noted that J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER has been investigated under the provisions of Executive Order 10450.

RUC

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: 10/18/54

FROM :

SUBJECT: JOHN VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Tolson ✓
Boardman ✓
Nichols ✓
Belmont ✓
Harbo ✓
Mohr ✓
Parsons ✓
Rosen ✓
Tamm ✓
Sizoo ✓
Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Holloman ✓
Gandy ✓

This is to furnish information contained in a summary concerning Von Neumann, concerning whom an investigation was ordered on 10/4/54 at the request of the White House, as Von Neumann is a candidate for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Included in summary - In April, 1954, Von Neumann testified before the Personnel Security Board of the Atomic Energy Commission in the case of J. Robert Oppenheimer, whose atomic energy clearance was suspended as a result of the hearings. In testimony, Von Neumann said his association with Oppenheimer was based on mutual employment at Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey. Associates advised that appointee and Oppenheimer were associated on an intellectual basis.

State Department advised in July, 1950, that appointee was elected to membership of German Academy of Science at an election held in July, 1950, in the Soviet Sector of Berlin, Germany. This organization described as Communist dominated. By letter to the president of the academy, the appointee declined to accept membership in the organization.

Forty-nine individuals who are business associates, social acquaintances, neighbors, and others highly recommended the appointee as to his character, reputation, loyalty, associates, general standing and ability.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the attached summary be furnished to the Honorable Sherman Adams at the White House and the Attorney General.

(2) That inasmuch as the appointee is or has been employed as a consultant to the Office of the Secretary of Defense; G-2, Department of the Army; Office of Naval Intelligence; and the Atomic Energy Commission, that the attached summary also be furnished to these agencies

Attachment

77-64804

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In 1947 Von Neumann was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Employment

Prior to the appointee's entry into the United States in 1930 he had been an instructor at the University of Berlin and the University of Zurich.

In 1930 he entered on duty as a professor of mathematics at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. He remained so employed until 1933, at which time he was transferred to the faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey. He is presently so employed at the institute. In addition, he holds the position of director of the Electronics Computer Project.

In addition to the above-mentioned employment the appointee has been employed as follows:

On August 18, 1942, he was appointed a consultant to the Ballistics Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland. From that date to the present time the appointee has been employed as a consultant by the laboratories on a "per diem basis when actually employed." The appointee's contract expires June 30, 1955. His personnel file contains no unfavorable information concerning him.

On July 1, 1947, he was appointed a consultant in the Mathematics Division, Research Department, Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Maryland. He remained so employed until July 1, 1950, at which time he was appointed a consultant in the Aeroballistics Research Department of the laboratory. He has received yearly reappointments to the present time. He is paid on a "per diem basis when actually employed." His personnel file contains no unfavorable information concerning him.

From January 1, 1949, to the present time the appointee has been a consultant to the Engineering Division of the K-25 Plant, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. During the same period the appointee has been employed as a consultant to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Mathematical Panel, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. His contracts are due to expire on December 31, 1954.

The appointee has served as an "expert consultant" to the Bureau of Ordnance, War Department, Aberdeen, Maryland, on a per diem basis from September 2, 1940, to April, 1947.

On February 13, 1950, he received an excepted appointment as a consultant to the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project. He received yearly reappointments as a consultant, the last appointment being given on July 1, 1954. The appointee's personnel and security file contain no unfavorable information concerning him.

The records of the office of the Secretary of Defense reflect that the appointee received an excepted appointment as an expert consultant on February 28, 1949, to the Research and Development Board of the Committee on Atomic Energy, Washington, D. C. He received yearly reappointments, the last appointment being given on July 1, 1954. This employment is on a "per diem basis when actually employed." The appointee's file contains no unfavorable information concerning him.

On February 27, 1952, Von Neumann received a Presidential appointment as a member of the General Advisory Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission. On August 2, 1954, he received an appointment as a consultant to the Atomic Energy Commission. This contract is due to expire June 30, 1955. His personnel file contains no unfavorable information concerning him.

On September 15, 1952, he became employed as a consultant to the University of California Radiation Laboratory, Berkeley, California. He has received reappointments yearly and is presently so employed. His contract expires June 30, 1955.

From September 7, 1942, to August 31, 1945, he was employed on an intermittent basis as a consultant by the Bureau of Ordnance, Department of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

From February 26, 1941, to September 4, 1942, and from April 1, 1944, to May 17, 1946, he served as an expert consultant on explosives on a part-time voluntary basis, without compensation, to the National Defense Research Committee, Washington, D. C.

He was attached to the staff of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, University of California, Los Alamos,

New Mexico, as a consultant from November 2, 1943, to the present time. His contract is due to expire June 30, 1955. In connection with this employment the appointee did considerable work for the laboratory at Princeton University and at the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

A number of persons interviewed concerning the appointee's employment advised that he is a capable individual who possesses a high degree of integrity and ability.

Marital Status

The appointee married Mariette Kovesi on June 1, 1930, at Budapest, Hungary. In divorce proceedings at Reno, Nevada, in October, 1937, the appointee's wife charged the appointee with cruelty. She was awarded a divorce on November 3, 1937.

A number of persons interviewed during this investigation advised that the divorce resulted from a lack of mutual interests and that there was no scandal attached to the divorce.

One child, Marina Von Neumann, born March 6, 1935, at New York, New York, resides with the appointee's former wife at Setauket, New York. The appointee's former wife is remarried.

The records of the United States District Court at Trenton, New Jersey, reflect that Mariette Kovesi Von Neumann became a United States citizen on September 10, 1937.

An applicant-type investigation was conducted by this Bureau in 1947 concerning the appointee's former wife and no unfavorable information concerning her was obtained.

The appointee married Klara Dan in Budapest, Hungary, on November 15, 1938. She entered the United States on December 15, 1938. The records of the United States District Court at Trenton, New Jersey, reflect that she became a United States citizen on December 26, 1942. The appointee and his wife reside at 26 Westcott Road, Princeton, New Jersey.

An applicant-type investigation was conducted by this Bureau in 1947 and 1953 concerning Klara Dan Von Neumann and no unfavorable information concerning her was obtained.

II. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Interviews

During the course of this and previously mentioned applicant-type investigations, a number of persons interviewed, includes business associates, social acquaintances, neighbors and others and they commented favorably as to the appointee's character, loyalty, reputation, general standing and ability. They highly recommended him for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

Persons who commented as above are:

Robert Mainhardt, official, Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Edward Teller, consultant, Radiation Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Anthony A. Tomei, administrative assistant, General Advisory Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C.

Herman H. Goldstein, assistant director, Electronic Computer Project, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

Atle Selberg, official, Mathematics Department, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

Deane Montgomery, official, Mathematics Department, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

Elizabeth Gorman, secretary to the appointee, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

Alvin M. Weinberg, research director,
Oak Ridge National Laboratories, Oak Ridge,
Tennessee.

Alston S. Householder, in charge of the
Mathematics Panel, Oak Ridge National
Laboratories, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Jack Moshman, senior statistician, Oak
Ridge National Laboratories, Oak Ridge,
Tennessee.

Jordan Carson Mark, division leader,
Theoretical Physics Division, University of
California, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

James L. Tuck, physicist and group leader,
Physics Division, University of California,
Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Nicholas Metropolis, group leader, Theoretical
Physics Division, University of California,
Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Bengt G. Carlson, group leader, University of
California, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

George Foster Evans, mathematician, University
of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Cerda Louise Evans, mathematician, University
of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Robert E. Caraway, manager, The Lodge, Los
Alamos, New Mexico.

Arnold Shold, assistant manager, The Lodge,
Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Stanislaw M. Vlam, mathematician, University
of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

John A. Wheeler, professor of physics,
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

A. W. Tucker, chairman, Mathematics Department,
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Eugene P. Wigner, professor, Mathematics
Department, Princeton University, Princeton,
New Jersey.

Luis Alvarez, physicist, Radiation Laboratory,
University of California, Berkeley, California.

Donald Cooksey, assistant director, Radiation
Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley,
California.

H. R. Falpaugh, security officer, Ballistics
Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Aberdeen, Maryland.

Theodore Stern, scientific advisor to the
director, Ballistics Section, Aberdeen Proving
Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland.

L. S. Diederich, associate director, Ballistics
Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Aberdeen, Maryland.

R. H. Kent, associate director, Ballistics Research
Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen,
Maryland.

Leonard E. Simon, director, Ballistics Research
Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen,
Maryland.

R. H. Frazer, chief, Internal Ballistics Division,
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Frank Aydelotte, dean, Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Oswald Veblen, professor, Mathematics Department,
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

H. H. Taylor, dean of the Graduate School, Princeton
University, Princeton, New Jersey.

L. P. Eisenkart, professor, Mathematics Department, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Albert Einstein, professor emeritus, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

M. H. Nichols, official, Physics Department, Palmer Laboratories, Princeton, New Jersey.

Henry D. Smythe, official, Physics Department, Palmer Laboratories, Princeton, New Jersey.

Mrs. G. P. Tschebotarioff, neighbor, 21 Westcott Road, Princeton, New Jersey.

Kate Morgan, neighbor, 10 Westcott Road, Princeton, New Jersey.

R. C. Albion, assistant dean of the faculty, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

P. Kissane, director, Civil Engineering Department, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Marston Morse, professor, Mathematics Department, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey.

H. P. Roberts, director, Mathematics Department, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

N. E. Bradbury, director, Los Alamos Project, University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Karl T. Compton, former official, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lewis Del Sasso, former official, Ballistics Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Curtis Lampson, former official, Ballistics Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Louise Del Sasso, employee, Chemical Center,
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Ralph Carlisle Smith, associate director
for Classification and Security, Los Alamos
Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

As an example of the comments offered, the
following interviews are being set forth:

Karl Compton, former official, Massachusetts
Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, advised
that he considers the appointee to be "100 per cent American"
and that he has never had any reason to question his loyalty.
He recommended the appointee highly for a confidential
position. He advised further that he has never heard any
unfavorable information concerning the appointee.

Edward Teller, consultant, University of California
Radiation Laboratory, Livermore, California, advised that he
has known the appointee since 1925. He stated that he knew
the appointee in Germany, England and the United States, and
that he worked with the appointee in Los Alamos, New Mexico,
in 1943. He related that Von Neumann is a genius of a
scientist and has made great contributions to science. He
said the appointee is acutely aware of the great danger of
the Russian plans for world domination and he proclaimed
that the appointee is definitely "anti-Russian." He
described the appointee as a person of good character whose
associates are reputable individuals. He stated that the
appointee is loyal to the United States in all respects
and is a person who can keep a secret and be discreet in
his conversations relative to security matters. He highly
recommended the appointee for a position of trust and
confidence with the Government.

Mr. and Mrs. George Foster Evans, both mathematicians,
University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, advised
that they have known the appointee and his wife since about
1948. Both stated that the appointee and his wife are loyal
to the United States and are more pronounced in their
statements indicating such loyalty than the average citizen,

in view of their being naturalized citizens of the United States. Both commented favorably as to the character, reputation and loyalty of the appointee's immediate family. They further advised that the appointee has reputable associates and is very security conscious in regard to confidential information. Both highly recommended the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

John A. Wheeler, professor of physics; A. W. Tucker, chairman, Mathematics Department, and Eugene P. Wigner, professor of mathematics and physics, all of Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, and Herman H. Goldstein, assistant director, Electronic Computer Project, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey, all advised that the appointee is of excellent character and reputation and is a loyal American. All stated that the appointee has reputable associates and they highly recommended him for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

Organizations

Investigation has determined that the appointee is or has been elected or appointed to various positions in the following organizations:

Nassau Club, Princeton, New Jersey; Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C; American Mathematical Society, Providence, Rhode Island; Econometric Society, Washington, D. C; National Academy of Sciences; American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Credit and Criminal

The records of the law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus covering the places of residence of the appointee in the United States were checked and no pertinent identifiable information concerning the appointee was obtained except as follows:

The records of the Princeton, New Jersey, Police Department, reflect that the appointee received eight traffic citations between the period February 27, 1930, to January 16, 1953. The dispositions reflect that the appointee received suspended sentences in three instances and for the other five violations paid fines ranging from \$1 to \$10.

The records of the Trenton Credit Association, Trenton, New Jersey, in a report dated October 9, 1945, reflect that the appointee derived income in the amount of \$20,000 annually and that he owns a home at 26 Westcott Road, Princeton, New Jersey, valued at \$30,000.

Agency Checks

During the course of this investigation the records of the following governmental agencies were checked and no further pertinent identifiable information concerning the appointee was obtained:

House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Office of Naval Intelligence.

Central Intelligence Agency.

Passport Office, United States Department of State.

Security Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Office of Security, Atomic Energy Commission.

Office of Special Investigations, United States Department of the Air Force.

Central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The records of the Investigations Division, United States Civil Service Commission, reflect that a record check and inquiry was made concerning the appointee under Executive Order 9835, on October 31, 1949. No question of loyalty or unsuitability was disclosed and the investigation reflected no additional pertinent or unfavorable information concerning the appointee.

Relatives

Investigation has determined that the appointee's father died in July, 1929. A number of persons interviewed

during this and the previously mentioned applicant-type investigations commented favorably as to the character, reputation and loyalty of the following relatives of the appointee:

Mother, Margaret Von Neumann, Brooklyn,
New York.

Brothers, Michael Von Neumann, Brooklyn,
New York.

Nicholas Von Neumann, Washington,
D. C.

The records of the law enforcement agencies and credit bureaus covering the places of residence in the United States of the above-mentioned relatives of the appointee including his wife were checked and no unfavorable information concerning them was obtained.

Investigation has determined that the appointee's mother was naturalized on July 2, 1946, in the United States District Court at Brooklyn, New York. The appointee's brother, Michael, was naturalized on December 6, 1949, in the United States District Court at Brooklyn, New York.

Miscellaneous

The records of another governmental agency which conducts personnel and security-type investigations advised that a possible procedural security violation had been committed at Los Alamos on August 9, 1953, by T. H. Johnson, director of Division of Research, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C.; Robert R. Wilson of the Livermore, California, Laboratory; James L. Tuck and John Von Neumann in that they discussed possibly classified matters in a room at the Lodge, a public hotel located outside of the restricted areas of Los Alamos. The files reflect that Mr. Tuck was interviewed by security officials of the Atomic Energy Commission and that although such a discussion was held it was not at the instigation and in fact was over the objections of Mr. Tuck and Mr. Von Neumann. The files further reveal that Von Neumann was also interviewed by the security officials; that he explained the data that were discussed on that occasion and stated that he had been reluctant to participate in such a discussion on Sunday and outside of the restricted area, but had done so at the specific request of Dr. Johnson. The files reflect that no

further action was taken by the Atomic Energy Commission in regard to this matter and the files further contain no unfavorable information concerning the appointee.

James L. Tuck, physicist and group leader, University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, advised that he has known the appointee since 1942. He stated that the appointee and his wife are persons of unimpeachable character and that he has never had any reason to question their loyalty to the United States. He advised that they are both very intelligent individuals and he has never heard them express more than a normal interest in political ideology or political questions. He stated he has known the appointee to be affiliated only with professional organizations and furthermore has only known him to associate with responsible and loyal individuals.

Mr. Tuck pointed out that Von Neumann is the actual originator of much classified data and confidential information relative to experimental weapons and to the best of his knowledge the appointee has always been very careful in the handling and protection of such classified information. He pointed out that Von Neumann and he were involved in an incident at Los Alamos, New Mexico, in August, 1953, which might be considered a procedural security violation but stated that he does not consider that the appointee was actually responsible for this matter in any way. In describing the incident, he stated that T. H. Johnson, director of the Division of Research, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C., and one Robert R. Wilson of the Livermore, California, Laboratory, arrived at Los Alamos on a Sunday during August, 1953, upon very short notice. These individuals desired to obtain the opinions of Von Neumann and him, Tuck, relative to a matter in which Wilson was vitally concerned at that time. They explained, however, that Wilson could only spend a few hours at Los Alamos and that it had not been possible to furnish the security officials of the Atomic Energy Commission at Los Alamos sufficient data for them to furnish the appropriate clearances and passes for admission to the restricted areas at Los Alamos.

Mr. Tuck further advised that there was no question in the mind of either the appointee or himself that Johnson

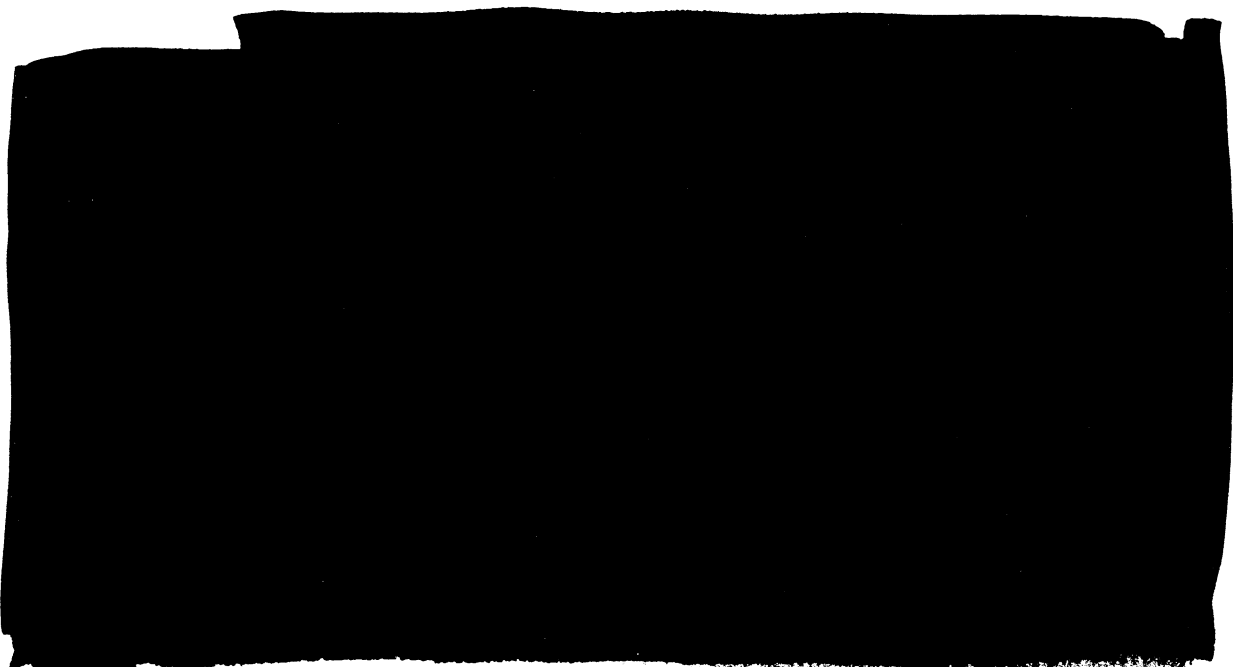
and Wilson were actually cleared for any information in connection with the Atomic Energy program. He said that the appointee did voice an objection to discussing any such information on Sunday at The Lodge, inasmuch as The Lodge was outside of the guarded or restricted areas where all confidential or classified work is performed. He advised, however, that he and the appointee eventually acquiesced and did enter into a discussion of such a matter because of Johnson's insistence that Wilson could not remain at Los Alamos until the following Monday.

He informed that the discussion was commenced over the direct objection of Von Neumann who appeared fully cognizant that such a discussion should not have been commenced outside of the appropriately guarded or restricted area. He explained that neither he nor the appointee discussed their work or anything that was being done at Los Alamos and that actually in his opinion the data which were discussed were not of a highly classified nature. He expressed the opinion that he is quite certain that the appointee has never made a practice of discussing classified information in public places and that Von Neumann is very discreet and careful in his conversations. He concluded that the appointee can be completely trusted with confidential information and he highly recommended him for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

A number of individuals who were employed with the appointee at the University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, advised that the appointee is a capable and competent individual who possesses a high degree of integrity and ability. They said he is discreet in the handling of confidential and classified information and they highly recommended him for a position of trust and confidence with the Government. All further stated that the appointee is very security conscious and they consider him to be entirely trustworthy.

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Jordon Carson Mark, division leader, Theoretical Physics Division, University of California, Los Alamos, New Mexico, advised that he has worked rather closely with the appointee in his position as a consultant since about 1946 or 1947. He expressed the opinion that the appointee and his wife are individuals of excellent character and reputation who are loyal to the United States. He said the appointee has never entertained any sympathy for any foreign Government or type of Government. He added that Von Neumann and his wife have at various times appeared to be quite disturbed about the threat of Communism or Communist domination in both Europe and the United States. He related that they have always appeared to be completely opposed to any such political philosophies.

Mark informed that he is cognizant of the fact that Israel Halperin, a reputed Soviet espionage agent, was at one time a student of the appointee but stated that Von Neumann has never indicated to him that he had any particular close association with Halperin. He stated that he never had any indication that their association exceeded a normal professor-student relationship. He concluded by stating that he considers the appointee to be thoroughly trustworthy in regard to confidential information and he said he would give him his highest recommendation for any position of trust and confidence with the Government.

A number of other persons interviewed during this investigation furnished substantially the same information as Mr. Mark and they highly recommended the appointee for a position of trust and confidence with the Government.

Another governmental agency, which conducts personnel and security-type investigations, advised in July, 1950, that the "Sed Neus Deutschland," a newspaper in Berlin, Germany, announced on July 13, 1950, that the Communist-dominated German Academy of Science in Berlin, Soviet Sector, Germany, had elected two Americans as associate members. This agency advised that one of these Americans was John Von Neumann, professor of mathematics at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

The above-mentioned governmental agency advised that the appointee wrote a letter on September 19, 1950, to the president of the German Academy of Science in Berlin, Soviet Sector, Germany, declining to accept membership in that organization.

The "New York Post," a daily newspaper, on June 16, 1954, carried an article headed "Oppenheimer Appeal Denies Stand Caused Delay In Building H-Bomb." This article indicated that Dr. John Von Neumann, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, and a member of the Atomic Energy Commission's General Advisory Commission, testified at the hearing conducted concerning Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer by the Atomic Energy Commission Board, which hearing resulted in Oppenheimer's suspension as a security risk. The article stated that in connection with Oppenheimer's failure to report an individual who attempted to secure from him atomic information for the Russians in 1943, Von Neumann testified, "You have to view the performance and the character of a man as a whole. This episode would make me think that in 1942 and 1943 he was not emotionally and intellectually prepared to handle this kind of job; that he subsequently learned how to handle it and handled it very well, I know."

The appointee testified before a hearing of the Personnel Security Board of the United States Atomic Energy Commission at Washington, D. C., on April 27, 1954, in the case of J. Robert Oppenheimer. His testimony in substance reflects that he met Oppenheimer in Germany in 1926 when both he and Oppenheimer were attempting to obtain Ph.D. degrees. He stated that he did not see Oppenheimer except on a few occasions between 1926 and 1943; however, since 1943, his

association with Oppenheimer has been practically continuous with the exception of a slight interruption between 1945 and 1947. He stated that he lived in the same town as Oppenheimer and that Oppenheimer had been director of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey. He said that he knew Oppenheimer both socially and professionally. He commented that both had discussions in which Oppenheimer attempted to persuade the appointee to change his views and he attempted to change Oppenheimer's views. He said that it was Oppenheimer's opinion that it would be a mistake to accelerate the development of the hydrogen bomb and the thermonuclear program. It was Oppenheimer's view, according to the appointee, that to accelerate such a program would disorganize the program at that time and would supersede and damage everything else. He said that he has no doubts concerning Oppenheimer's loyalty to the United States and he expressed the opinion that Oppenheimer used discretion in the handling of classified materials and classified information. He related that in 1942 and 1943, Oppenheimer was not emotionally and intellectually prepared to handle his job; that he subsequently learned how to handle it. He said that Oppenheimer is not a security risk because of his associations.

In connection with the hearing held by the Personnel Security Board of the Atomic Energy Commission, J. Robert Oppenheimer's clearance was suspended in December, 1953, pending the outcome of this hearing. The hearings were held from April 12, 1954, to May 10, 1954. On May 27, 1954, the Board recommended in a two-to-one advisory opinion that Oppenheimer's clearance not be reinstated. On June 29, 1954, the atomic energy commissioners by a vote of four to one confirmed the action of the Personnel Security Board and denied atomic energy clearance to Oppenheimer.

John A. Wheeler, professor of physics; A. W. Tucker, chairman, Mathematics Department; Eugene P. Wigner, professor of mathematics and physics, all of Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey; and Herman H. Goldstein, whose favorable comments are noted on page 10 of this summary, advised that the appointee is one of the few really great mathematicians alive today and there is no question in their mind as to the character, loyalty, or associations of the appointee. They stated that Von Neumann would place the good of the United States above everything else. They advised that the appointee's association with J. Robert Oppenheimer was based on the fact that they are

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc- Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont

November 20, 1954

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Sherman Adams
The Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Adams:

Reference is made to my letter dated October 18, 1954, which transmitted a summary reflecting the results of an investigation conducted by this Bureau concerning John Von Neumann.

On November 17, 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission advised that Mr. Dayton Vohrees, retired professor, Princeton University, had furnished information that Von Neumann and Professor James W. Alexander were well acquainted. Vohrees described Alexander as having long been a member of the Communist Party, and held Communist Party meetings at his home during the Depression years.

The extensive background investigation on Von Neumann referred to above, did not disclose any close association with Alexander, nor did a review of our files concerning Alexander reveal any close acquaintanceship with Von Neumann other than both being associated with the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton University.

There is enclosed herewith a summary of pertinent information in our files concerning James W. Alexander. In the absence of a specific request, no additional investigation will be conducted by the FBI concerning this matter.

Dissemination has been made in this matter to the Atomic Energy Commission and all other agencies which received copies of the summary as indicated in my letter of October 18, 1954.

J. Edgar Hoover

Sincerely yours,

(Summaries for Von Neumann investigation were furnished to the AEC, Office of Secretary of Defense, G-2 and ONI, as Von Neumann is a consultant to these agencies.)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
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Harbo _____
Mohr _____
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Rosen _____
Tamm _____
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 Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
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Enclosure

(5)

BY SP-1 MSGR
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CONFIDENTIAL
COMM - FBI

NOV 24 1954

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT: DR. JOHN VON NEUMANN

DATE: Nov. 17, 1954

Tolson ☒

Belmont ☒

Harbo ☒

Mohr ☒

Parsons ☒

Rosen ☒

Tamm ☒

Sizoo ☒

Winterrowd ☒

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Holloman ☒

Gandy ☒

Senator Hickenlooper called me on the morning of November 17, 1954, to advise that he is going to start hearings at 9:00 a.m., Thursday morning, November 18, on the confirmation of Dr. John Von Neumann and Dr. Willard F. Libby, newly appointed Commissioners to the Atomic Energy Commission. Hickenlooper stated he was aware of Dr. Von Neumann's defense of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer and his published statements setting forth his critical views on security. The Senator stated, however, that Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey has confidentially informed him that he has received information that Dr. Von Neumann is very close to and an associate of Professor James W. Alexander, Mathematics Professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton University; that Alexander was a member of the Communist Party. Hickenlooper stated that Senator Smith was not making this charge but was merely passing on information that may or may not be well grounded.

The Senator stated that he would have to have some information on Professor Alexander so that he would know how to handle the situation tomorrow, and that he was not going to be caught in trying to "kiss off the confirmation of Von Neumann in the event he had bad connections." The Senator wondered if we could give him any guidance on a confidential basis as he does not feel that this is a matter to be handled through official channels at this point.

I told the Senator I did not know what we could do to help him, but we would check and then decide what to do. I told the Senator that I would call him either late this afternoon or call him at his home tonight.

I have asked Mr. Keay to have a summary prepared on Professor James W. Alexander special so that we could have it early this afternoon. I have asked Mr. Callan to review the investigation on Dr. Von Neumann to see if we came up with any information pertaining to his contacts with Alexander.

5 DEC 3 1954
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Rosen

LBN:arn 5 DEC 3 1954

(5)

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EX-1

13 NOV 29 1954

77-64804-33

CONFIDENTIAL

November 20, 1954

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

JOHN VON NEUMANN
SPECIAL INQUIRY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/13/89 BY SP1/AG/alt

Reference is made to my memorandum dated October 18, 1954, which transmitted a summary reflecting the results of an investigation conducted by this Bureau at the request of the White House concerning John Von Neumann.

On November 17, 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission advised that Mr. Dayton Vohrees, retired professor, Princeton University, had furnished information that Von Neumann and Professor James W. Alexander were well acquainted. Vohrees described Alexander as having long been a member of the Communist Party, and held Communist Party meetings at his home during the Depression years.

The extensive background investigation on Von Neumann referred to above, did not disclose any close association with Alexander, nor did a review of our files concerning Alexander reveal any close acquaintanceship other than both being associated with the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton University.

There is enclosed herewith a summary of pertinent information in our files concerning James V. Alexander. The White House has been advised that we are taking no further action in the absence of a specific request.

In addition to the White House, dissemination is being made of this matter to all agencies which receive copies of the summary as indicated in my memorandum of October 18, 1954.

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- Nichols _____
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- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
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- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
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- 1 - Yellow
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CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson
FROM : L. B. Nichols

DATE: November 17, 1954
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SUBJECT: JAMES WADDELL ALEXANDER (y)

ALL
b7c

With reference to the call which I received from Senator Hickenlooper on November 17th regarding the alleged associations between Professor James W. Alexander and Dr. Von Neumann, I wish to advise that we had some 200 references in the files on Alexander. It was only possible to get the highlights in a summary in order to enable me to talk to Hickenlooper on the night of November 17th. The summary is attached.

I talked to Hickenlooper and told him that it was to be specifically understood that I was talking to him on a personal and confidential basis. He said it was understood and he would so respect the matter as he had in the past.

Alexander had been born in New Jersey in 1888; that he had been a professor at Princeton since 1933. He married a Russian in January, 1917. We have received reports that Alexander had admitted membership in the Communist Party to the State Department in 1942; that as a result of this information we had made an investigation on him in 1944 and 1945; that no evidence was developed of Party membership or party activity at that time; however, Alexander did have a reputation of being a radical and individuals claimed he was pro-Communist. I further told Hickenlooper that he was married as a contributing editor of "Science and Society," a Marxian Quarterly, in 1937; that he was a sponsor and supporter of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship; that the Princetonian Bulletin 6-8-45 referred to his having received an invitation to attend the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Scientists of the Union of the Soviet Republic. I further told Senator Hickenlooper that he probably knew Alexander signed a letter which the Institute for Advanced Study sent to Canada on behalf of Professor L. Halperin.

Hickenlooper knew of this letter as Von Neumann also signed it. I told Hickenlooper that a check was made at that time and various associates stated that Alexander had been radical in the past but had been called a Communist by some local people, but that in recent years associates had heard nothing which would indicate that Alexander had Communist leanings. One source advised that Alexander had

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont
LBN: 1021ICE
DEC 20 1954

W.H.A. AEC
with cc 650, ONI #62
11-28-54

Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

November 17, 1954

RE: JAMES WADDELL ALEXANDER

lost sympathy with the Communists due to their opposition of the Marshal plan. Hickenlooper then told me that he has since learned that Senator Smith talked to ~~Libby~~ Strauss about Von Neumann/^{and} about Alexander; that Smith received his information from a Mr. Vohres, a former professor and who is a city councilman. He stated that Strauss sent Bryan LaPlante up to conduct a "15-minute investigation" and report back to Smith.

Hickenlooper then told me in confidence that he was not at all happy with the Von Neumann appointment; that Von Neumann had not come to this country until he was 27 years of age. He had lived abroad more than he had lived in the United States, he was not naturalized until 1938 and he was married to two Hungarian women and he does not know what their contacts are. After the President appointed Von Neumann, Hickenlooper told Strauss that he was embarrassed with this appointment in view of Von Neumann's defense of Oppenheimer and in view of his expressed contempt of security; that he would like to support the Presidential appointment, but that the fact remained that he had to have some evidence to support him. Hickenlooper told me there was no question but that Strauss was back of the appointment.

He further stated that the Commission is acting funny; that he has it on good authority that the FBI submitted a supplemental report on Von Neumann to the President and that a copy went to the Atomic Energy Commission. For some strange reason the Commission has not as yet been able to locate this report. He further told me that he did not believe that Von Neumann and Libby would be confirmed in this session; that the Senate was getting itchy and ready to go. The Senator expressed appreciation for the cooperation and stated he would keep after the Commission.

It is recommended that when the Domestic Intelligence Division completes the review on Alexander that this data be summarized and furnished to the Atomic Energy Commission. It is believed this should be given expeditious attention so that we can be in a position, should anything come up, of stating the full facts have been furnished to the AEC.

The investigation of Von Neumann did not disclose any association with ~~Alexander~~, nor did the file review today, other than the fact that both were connected with the Institute of Advanced Study.

V. m

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE November 11, 1954

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Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Ladd
Malone
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Tracy
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: JAMES WADDELL ALEXANDER

1 - Sec. Tick file
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - Yellow

b7C

SYNOPSIS:

Pursuant to Mr. Nichols' request of 11-17-54 there is set forth herein pertinent information from our files concerning the captioned individual, a professor at Princeton University. Alexander was born in Seabright, New Jersey, 9-19-88. His family has been well known in New Jersey since Revolutionary days. He has been a professor at Princeton since 1933. He married Natalia Levitskaja, a Russian, on 1-15-17. Alexander was the subject of a Bureau security investigation in 1944-45, based on information obtained from State Department that Alexander, in May, 1942, had admitted membership in the Communist Party during the Spanish Civil War. Investigation developed that Alexander was known in the Princeton area as a radical and an associate of a known Communist Party agitator. Investigation failed to develop any membership in the Communist Party or activity on behalf of the Communist Party in the Princeton area. Alexander was released in January, 1945. In addition, our files reflect that Alexander was associated with the following cited organizations: Contributing Editor, Science and Society, 1-16-39; sponsor National Council of American-Soviet Friendship 1945 and member American Soviet Science Society 10-46. "Princetonian Bulletin," student publication Princeton University, issue dated 6-6-45 reported that Alexander had been by the Soviet Government invited to attend the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Scientists of the Union of Soviet Republics in Moscow. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police advised on 7-7-50 that the name of James W. Alexander appeared as one of the signers on a letter dated May 16, 1946 directed to the Prime Minister of Canada in behalf of Israel Halperin who had been arrested for violation of the Official Secrets Act. Based on this information Newark Office conducted an investigation in April, 1952, at Princeton University, at which time associate professors of Alexander advised that he had in the past been known as a radical and pro-Communist individual advised Alexander lost sympathy in recent years. One Communist opposition to America's Marshall Plan assistance to Europe. In 1952 and 1953 two former students interviewed on a related matter advised that Alexander was a Communist sympathizer during the 1930's. Neither review revealed no association between John Von Neumann and Alexander other than both being connected with the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton.

ACTION: None. For your information.

1 - Mr. Nichols

JD:mmm

(6)

Reference:

Reference is made to Mr. Nichols memorandum of the same date under the caption "John Von Neumann" wherein he advised that he had received a call from Senator Hickenlooper concerning information that the latter had received from Senator Smith in New Jersey that Von Neumann was a close associate of Alexander, a Princeton Professor. According to Hickenlooper, Alexander had been described as a Communist. Mr. Nichols requested that our files be reviewed concerning Alexander and that a memorandum be prepared late this afternoon. Due to the shortness of time and the numerous file references, there is set forth herein the highlights of the pertinent information in our files concerning Alexander.

James Waddell Alexander was born in Seabright, New Jersey, September 19, 1888. His family has been well-known in New Jersey since revolutionary times. He has been a Professor at Princeton University since 1933 and has studied at the Universities at Paris and Boulogne. He married Natalia Levitskaja, a Russian, on January 15 1917.

Our files reflect that a security investigation was conducted concerning Alexander in 1944 and 1945. The investigation was based on information obtained from the State Department that Alexander, as a sponsor, had admitted on a visa application dated May 30, 1942, that he had been a member of the Communist Party during the Spanish Civil War. Investigation at Princeton University by the Newark Office developed that Alexander had a reputation for being a liberal thinker, however, no information was developed to indicate that he was at that time a member of the Communist Party in New Jersey or active in Communist Party affairs in the Princeton area. However, a reliable informant of the Newark Office advised on October 26, 1944, that the President of the Mercer County, New Jersey, Communist Political Association (CPA) recommended Alexander to a new member of the CPA as a good contact in Princeton, New Jersey. During the course of this investigation it was pointed out that Elizabeth Dilling's "Red Network" listed Alexander as having been a National Counselor for the League for Industrial Democracy. Information was obtained from the Princeton Police Department at that time that Alexander associated with one Thomas McNally, a known Communist Party agitator. This investigation was closed on January 26, 1945, as the investigation revealed no current activity on the part of Alexander. (100-151472; 121-22269-3)

In addition to the above our files reflect the following information: A letterhead of the publication "Science and Society, a Marxian Quarterly," dated January 16, 1939, New York City, carried the name of J. W. Alexander as a contributing editor. "Science and Society, a Marxian Quarterly" was cited as a Communist publication by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities. (100-64700-271)

The Newark Office by letters 1-16-45 and 9-4-45, captioned "Communist Party, U.S.A., Internal Security - C," listed Alexander as a sponsor and supporter of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. No source was given for this information. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-328-31-12 P. 83)

The "Princetonian Bulletin" student publication, Princeton University, issue dated 6-8-45 reported that Dr. James W. Alexander, Institute of Advance Study had been invited by the Soviet Government to fly to Russia with a group of outstanding American scientists to attend the 220th Anniversary ceremony of the Academy of Scientists of the Union of the Soviet Republics (121-2673-94)

Alexander was reliably reported as a member of the American-Soviet Science Society in October, 1946.

The Institute for Advanced Study, School of Mathematics, Princeton, New Jersey, directed a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada dated May 18, 1946, on behalf of Professor Israel Halperin. One of the principles implicated in the Soviet military intelligence operation in Canada in 1946. One of the signers of this letter was James W. Alexander. Based on the above information the Newark Office made inquiry in April, 1952, at Princeton University. At the time several professors who were associated with Alexander were interviewed. They advised that Alexander had been a radical in the past and had been called a Communist by some local people; however, in recent years they heard nothing that would indicate that Alexander had Communist leanings. One individual advised that Alexander lost sympathy with the Communists due to the Communist opposition to America's Marshall Plan assistance to Europe.

b7D [redacted], former Communist Party member, on interview by Bureau Agents in September, 1952, advised that Alexander was well-known at Princeton University while he, [redacted] attended that University, inasmuch as Alexander had prepared the first translation into English of Lenin's "State and Revolution." [redacted] advised that in his opinion Alexander was sympathetic to the Communist ideology but Alexander could not accept the actualities of Communism. He stated that he never knew Alexander to attend a Communist Party meeting and that he did not believe that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party; however, he pointed out that during the period he was at the University, 1936-1940, Alexander could be counted on to make contributions to organizations that were sympathetic to loyalist Spain. (105-13320-20)

[redacted] former member of the Communist Party and presently [redacted] was interviewed by Bureau Agents in June, 1953, and advised that during his attendance at Princeton University from 1935 to 1937 he was acquainted with Alexander and it was [redacted] opinion that from Alexander's speech and actions he was at that time in some way connected with the Communist Party at Princeton, however, he pointed out that he had no proof of Communist Party membership on the part of Alexander. (100-347949-27)

Date: November 20, 1954

To: Captain John A. Teters
Director of Security
Atomic Energy Commission
Room 2B14, 7-5 Building
16th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: J. A. VON NEUBACH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/13/87 BY SP1/AG/gtt

Reference is made to my letter dated October 18, 1954, which transmitted a summary reflecting the results of an investigation conducted by this Bureau at the request of the House concerning John von Neumann. Further reference is made to information obtained from your agency on November 14, 1954, to the effect that Dr. J. von Neumann, retired professor, Princeton University, reports that von Neumann was closely associated with Alexander Sachs, a member of the Communist Party, and this Communist Party cell was active during the Depression years.

The extensive background investigation of von Neumann did not reflect any close association with Alexander Sachs nor did a review of our files concerning Alexander Sachs reveal any close acquaintanceship other than both having been associated with the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton University. There is attached for your information a summary of pertinent information in our files concerning Alexander Sachs.

Enclosure

1 - Assistant Chief of Staff, Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

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1 - Mrs. George J. Gould (with Encl.)
Director - Security Division
Room 33913
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

JD:kjc (10)

BY SP1 MSGR
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COMM - FBI

1 ENCLOSURE

22
63 DEC 10 1954

November 20, 1944

JAMES MADDELL ALEXANDER

James Maddell Alexander was born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, September 19, 1903. His family has been well known in New Jersey, since Revolutionary times. He received a B.S. Degree from Princeton University in 1929, an M.A. Degree in 1931, and a Ph.D. Degree in 1933. He was an instructor of mathematics and later a Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University from 1931 to 1933, and since that time he has been Professor of Mathematics at the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton University. He married Meta Ingrid Luritsch, a Russian, on January 15, 1927.

Our files reflect that Alexander is a signer in the visa application of Jacob Ales Lagerstrom dated May 30, 1942, admitted being a "member of the Communist Party during the Spanish Civil War." Based on this information, the FBI conducted a security investigation concerning Alexander during 1944 and 1945. A majority of the acquaintances of Alexander in Princeton, New Jersey, advised at that time that Alexander had the reputation of being a liberal and a Socialist, and knew of no connection with the Communist Party. Edward V. Mahan, Chief of Police, Princeton, New Jersey, advised that Alexander was a Communist sympathizer, that he associated with one Thomas McNally, and probably assisted the latter in his Communist writings. McNally was a candidate for Congress on the Communist Party ticket in 1934, and was otherwise active in Communist affairs.

Another individual contacted at this time whose reliability is unknown, but who was in a position to know, described Alexander as a "radical" in 1937 and 1938, at which time Alexander allegedly dealt with the Communist Labor Party which was functioning at Princeton University during those days. This individual stated that Alexander's affiliation with Princeton University was terminated for this reason.

Tolson — Note on yellow: Serial 100-10123-156X has been on locate with
Boardman — Records Section and was not received in time for this memorandum.
Nichols —
Belmont — J. J. Daunt:kfo (12)

Harbo —
Mohr — Orig & dup-White House **CONFIDENTIAL**
Parsons —

Rosen — 1-AEC

Tamm — 1-A.G.

Sizoo — 1-G-2

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Holloman — 1-Yellow

Gandy — 1-Liaison Section Tickler file
1-Boardman
1-Belmont

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

A reliable informant advised during the course of this investigation that on October 26, 1944, Samuel Kantor, Executive Secretary, Communist Political Association, Mercer County, New Jersey, recommended Alexander as a good contact to a member of the Communist Political Association who was moving to Princeton from outside the State of New Jersey. Our investigation was closed in January, 1945, when it failed to develop any current membership or activity in the Communist Party on the part of Alexander.

In April, 1949, during the course of another investigation further inquiry was made at Princeton University concerning Alexander. Several fellow professors interviewed at this time advised that while they had heard Alexander described as a "radical," and in the past called a Communist by some people, they had heard nothing in recent years to indicate Communist leanings on the part of Alexander. One individual advised that he knew Alexander to have had Communist sympathies in the past, but felt that Alexander lost sympathy with the Communists due to Communist opposition to American Marshall Plan assistance to Europe.

Chief of Police, Edward Mahan, mentioned above, was reinterviewed, and advised that he had no recent information indicating Communist activity on the part of Alexander except that several years ago one John Van Nest had told him that Alexander was a Communist and had once told Van Nest "When the Communist take over, I will run the State of New Jersey." Chief Mahan advised at that time that Van Nest had died the previous year.

In addition to the above, our files reflect the following information:

Elizabeth Dilling's "Red Network," on page 259, reported James E. Alexander, not further identified, as a National Counselor for the League for Industrial Democracy in the State of New Jersey.

CONFIDENTIAL

Editor Stelio, in testimony before the subcommittee on Un-American Activities on August 19, 1950, stated that James H. Alexander, not further identified, was a member of the Board of Directors of the League for Industrial Democracy. Stelio identified the latter organization as the main propaganda and agitating agency of the Socialists.

A letterhead of the publication "Science and Society," dated January 16, 1943, at New York City, carried the name of J. H. Alexander, not further identified as a contributing editor. "Science and Society" was cited as a Communist publication by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities. The "Princetonian Bulletin," student publication, Princeton University, issue dated June 8, 1944, reported that Dr. James H. Alexander, Institute of Advanced Study had been invited by the Soviet Government to fly to Russia with a group of outstanding American scientists to attend the 250th Anniversary ceremony of the Academy of Scientists of the Union of the Soviet Republics. This group of scientists, including Alexander, departed from the United States to Moscow aboard a U.S. Government furnished plane on June 10, 1945. (181-2673-94)

It was reliably reported in October, 1943, that Alexander was a member of the American Soviet Science Society. This organization was cited as an affiliate of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., was designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Under the letterhead of the Institute of Advanced Study, School of Mathematics, Princeton, New Jersey, a letter was directed to the Prime Minister of France dated May 18, 1940, on behalf of Professor Israel Halperin who had been arrested for violation of the Official Secrets Act. One of the signers of this letter was James H. Alexander.

The "Daily Worker," once noted Communist newspaper, issue dated January 8, 1949, under the caption "Signers of Open Letter to the House Un-American Committee," listed the names of prominent

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educators, writers and clergymen who had signed a letter directed to the 81st Congress urging the abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Included was the name of Dr. James W. Alexander, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University.

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[REDACTED] former Communist Party member, on interview by Bureau Agents in September, 1958, advised that Alexander was well known at Princeton University while he, Brown, attended that University, inasmuch as Alexander had prepared the first translation into English of Lenin's "State and Revolution". Brown advised that in his opinion Alexander was sympathetic to the Communist ideology but Alexander could not accept the actualities of Communism. He stated that he never knew Alexander to attend a Communist Party meeting and that he did not believe that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party; however, he pointed out that during the period he was at the University, 1934-1940, Alexander could be counted on to make contributions to organizations that were sympathetic to Loyalist Spain. (105-19320-20)

b7D

[REDACTED] former member of the Communist Party, was interviewed by Bureau Agents in June, 1958, and advised that during his attendance at Princeton University from 1933 to 1937, he was acquainted with Alexander and it was Levinson's opinion that from Alexander's speech and actions he was at that time in some way connected with the Communist Party at Princeton; however, he pointed out that he had no proof of Communist Party membership on the part of Alexander. (100-347949-27) (100-151472; 77-28987)

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